

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Application Ranking Summary

SGI - Sage Grouse Initiative

Program:	Ranking Date:	Application Number:
Ranking Tool: SGI - Sage Grouse Initiative		Applicant:
Final Ranking Score:		Address:
Planner:		Telephone:
Farm Location:		

National Priorities Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
If the application is for development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP), the agency will assign significant ranking priority and conservation benefit by answering "Yes" to the following question. Answering "Yes" to question 1a will result in the application being awarded the maximum amount of points that can be earned for the national priority category.	
1. a. Is the program application to support the development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP)? If answer is "Yes", do not answer any other national level questions. If answer is "No", proceed with evaluation to address the remaining questions in this section.	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Water Quality Degradation – Will the proposed project improve water quality by: (select all that apply)	
2. a. Implementing the practices in a Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. b. Implementing the practices in a Nutrient Management Plan (NMP)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. c. Reducing impacts from sediment, nutrients, salinity, or pesticides on land adjoining a designated "impaired water body" (TMDL, 303d listed waterbody, or other State designation)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. d. Reducing the impacts from sediment, nutrients, salinity, or pesticides in a "non-impaired water body"?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. e. Implementing practices that improve water quality through animal mortality and carcass management?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Water Conservation – Will the proposed project conserve water by: (select all that apply)	
3. a. Implementing irrigation practices that reduce aquifer overdraft.	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
3. b. Implementing irrigation practices that reduce on-farm water use?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
3. c. Implementing practices in an area where the applicant participates in a geographically established or watershed-wide project?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
3. d. Implementing practices that reduce on-farm water use as a result of changing to crops with lower water consumptive use, the rotation of crops, or the modification of cultural operations?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Air Quality - Will the proposed project improve air quality by: (select all that apply)	
4. a. Meeting on-farm regulatory requirements relating to air quality or proactively avoid the need for regulatory measures?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
4. b. Implementing practices that reduce on-farm emissions of particulate matter (PM2.5, PM10)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
4. c. Implementing practices that reduce on-farm generated greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide (CO2), methane (CH4), and nitrous oxide (N2O)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
4. d. Implementing practices that increase on-farm carbon sequestration?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Soil Health:– Will the proposed project improve soil health by: (select all that apply)	
5. a. Reduce erosion to tolerable limits (Soil "T")?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
5. b. Increasing organic matter and carbon content, and improving soil tilth and structure?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Wildlife Habitat – Will the proposed project improve wildlife habitat by: (select all that apply)	
6. a. Implementing practices benefitting threatened and endangered, at-risk, candidate, or species of concern.	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
6. b. Implementing practices that retain wildlife and plant habitat on land exiting the Conservation	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>

Reserve Program (CRP) or other set-aside program?	
6. c. Implementing practices benefitting honey bee populations or other pollinators?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
6. d. Implementing land-based practices that improve habitat for aquatic wildlife?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Plant and Animal Communities: Will the proposed project improve plant and animal communities by: (select all that apply)	
7. a. Implementing practices that result in the management control of noxious or invasive plant species on non-cropland?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
7. b. Implementing practice in an Integrated Pest Management Plan (IPM)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Energy Conservation– Will the proposed project reduce energy use by: (select all that apply)	
8. a. Reducing on-farm energy consumption?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
8. b. Implementing practice(s) identified in an approved AgEMP or energy audit, which meet ASABE S612 criteria?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Business Lines – Will the practices to be scheduled in the “EQIP Plan of Operations” result in:	
9. a. Enhancement of existing conservation practice(s) or conservation systems already in place at the time the application is received?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>

State Issues Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
If the application is for development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP), the agency will assign significant ranking priority and conservation benefit by answering “Yes” to the following question. Answering “Yes” to question 1 will result in the application being awarded the maximum amount of points that can be earned for the state priority category.	
1. Is the program application to support the development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP)? If answer is “Yes”, do not answer any other state level questions. If answer is “No”, proceed with evaluation to address the remaining questions in this section.	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
1. Habitat Priority (select yes to only one answer)	
1. a. Priority 1 – Current Range & Transplant Zone: Rangelands in Douglas, Grant, Okanogan, Yakima and Kittitas Counties within the current sage grouse range as identified by the Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife and the Lincoln County transplant area buffer. Expansion of Lincoln Co. & Douglas Co. populations have been included so that these populations may be connected. See “Current Range & Transplant Zone” on the 2013 SAGE GROUSE INITIATIVE PRIORITY ZONES map. 200 pts	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
1. b. Priority 2 – WDFW Recovery Zone: Rangelands in Douglas, Grant, Okanogan, Lincoln, Adams, Yakima, Kittitas, Benton, Franklin and Klickitat Counties within the management units identified by the Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife. See “WDFW Recovery Zone” on the 2012 SAGE GROUSE INITIATIVE PRIORITY ZONES map. 100 pts	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
1. c. Priority 3 – Potential Habitat Zone: Rangelands in Central and Eastern Washington counties located within Sage Grouse potential habitat. See “Potential Habitat Zone” on the 2012 SAGE GROUSE INITIATIVE PRIORITY ZONES map. 50 pts	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
1. d. No Priority – Other lands in Central & Eastern Washington 25 pts	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. Eligible Acreage (select yes to only one answer)	
2. a. One hundred percent of eligible sagebrush/grassland will be enrolled. 100	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. b. Equal to or greater than 50 percent, but less than 100 percent of eligible sagebrush/grassland will be enrolled. 50 pts	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. c. Less than 50 percent of eligible sagebrush/grassland will be enrolled. 25 pts	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
3. Percent of Identified Threats Treated (select yes to only one answer)	
3. a. One hundred percent of identified threats will be addressed. 100 pts	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
3. b. Equal to or greater than 75 percent, but less than 100 percent of identified threats will be addressed. 75 pts	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
3. c. Equal to or greater than 50 percent, but less than 75 percent of identified threats will be addressed. 50 pts	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
3. d. Less than 50 percent of identified threats will be addressed. 25 pts	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>

Local Issues Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
If the application is for development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP), the agency will assign significant ranking priority and conservation benefit by answering "Yes" to the following question. Answering "Yes" to question 1a will result in the application being awarded the maximum amount of points that can be earned for the local priority category.	
1. a. Is the program application to support the development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP)? If answer is "Yes", do not answer any other local level questions. If answer is "No", proceed with evaluation to address the remaining questions in this section.	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
WA 2015 SGI Practice Hold-Downs:	
1. *315 Herbaceous Weed Control \$10,000, 382 Fence \$50,000, 472 Access Control \$5,000, 500 Obstruction Removal \$10,000, 516 Pipeline \$25,000, 528 Prescribed Grazing \$25,000/year, (\$75K for contract), **Range Planting \$35,000, (Applies to seeding only; sagebrush may be planted above the hold-down) 574 Spring development \$10,000, 614 Watering facility \$15,000, 642 Watering well \$15,000, 649 Wildlife structure \$5,000,	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
1. Distance to a Lek (yes to only one answer – 100 points maximum)	
1. a. Acres offered are contained or are within four miles of a Sage Grouse lek identified by Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. 100 points	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
1. b. Acres offered are between four and ten miles from a Sage Grouse Lek identified by Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. 50 points	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
1. c. Acres offered are more than 10 miles from a Sage Grouse Lek identified by Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. 25 points	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. Threat 1 – Lack of Residual cover & Loss of CRP. Existing grazed ranchlands does not always provide the residual cover necessary for nesting or reduces the available forage for Sage Grouse survival. Ungrazed or rented land may be included to fulfill the grazing criteria. (100 points maximum, may choose either SGI Residual Cover or Plant Health but not both. Improving Plant Diversity may be used by itself or in conjunction with either grazing option below.) Must use NRCS Practice Prescribed Grazing (528) for all three grazing options. Fence (382); Watering Facility (614) and additional practices to establish a water facility (Spring Development 574; Water Well 642; Pumping Plant 533; Pipeline 516). Range Planting (550) or Forage and Biomass Planting (512) may be used to provide additional forage if needed to implement the rest or deferment grazing option.	
2. a. SGI Residual Cover Grazing Option: Implement rest AND deferment grazing strategy on native bunchgrass rangelands or on expired CRP (50-point stands only), to increase residual cover for nesting while creating a sustainable range condition which provides forage for Sage Grouse and the cattle utilizing the pasture. Native bunchgrasses must represent at least 30% of offered ranchlands. Expired CRP must meet CRP stand certification criteria. Payment for this grazing option is \$7.28/acre for all acres included in grazing plan, PLUS \$6.21/acre for the pastures that are rested or deferred. Note: pasture must be rested one year and then deferred the next year. Establishment of infrastructure necessary to implement this strategy is available. 100 points	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. b. Plant Health Grazing Option: Implement a deferred grazing strategy on native bunchgrass rangeland or on expired CRP (50-point stands only), to create a sustainable range condition while providing forage for Sage Grouse and the cattle utilizing the pasture. Native bunchgrasses must represent at least 30% of offered ranchlands. Expired CRP must meet CRP stand certification criteria. Payment for this grazing option is \$2.86/acre (for all acres included in grazing plan). Establishment of infrastructure necessary to implement this strategy is available. 50 points	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. c. Planned grazing with plant community that does NOT have native bunchgrasses. 25 points	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
3. Threat 2 – Poor Quality Habitat. Current condition of ranchland or expired CRP is of low diversity. Also includes decadent stands, stands lacking the dominant perennial bunchgrasses or forbs. Cost-sharing ONLY for mixtures of native species. Minimum size is 50 acres. (answer yes to only one, 100 points maximum) NRCS Practices - Rangeland Planting (550); Restoration and Management of Rare & Declining Habitats (643). 100 points maximum for ranking.	
3. a. Improve Plant Diversity on Ranchlands: Improve the rangeland condition through increasing the plant diversity and/or restoration. Pasture will have no grazing for length of contract if this is the only treatment option selected to address Threat 1. If used in conjunction with SGI Residual Cover or Plant Health, rest the seeding/planting through the establishment period (generally two full growing seasons).	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>

3. b. Improve Plant Diversity or Expired CRP lands: Improve a CP1 of other poor quality field through an enhancement seeding/planting to meet the equivalent of a 50-point CRP stand. Field(s) will have no grazing during establishment (2 full growing seasons); infrastructure is available if these acres are included in a grazing plan selected under Threat 1.	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
4. Threat 3 – Predation and Hazards. Remove predator perches and structural obstructions which create a hazard. (answer yes to only one, 50 points maximum)	
4. a. Reduce Predator Impact: Remove any structural obstruction which serves as predator perches or nesting habitat. Examples include old telephone poles, unused buildings, and snags. NRCS Practice - Obstruction Removal (500).	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
4. b. Remove or Mark Fences: Remove or mark hazardous fences within 2 kilometers (1.25 miles) of a lek. NRCS Practices - Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (645)-fence markers; Obstruction Removal (500).	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
5. Threat 4 – Other Threats identified in the Sage Grouse Initiative Conference Report. (Riparian Improvement, Invasive Weeds on Sage Grouse Habitat, Upland Wildlife Habitat Management – escape ramps). Select all that apply, 25 points maximum.	
5. a. Treatment for Other Threats: Implement identified practices listed in the Sage Grouse Initiative Conference Report which will address issues. NRCS Practices – Wetland Wildlife Management (644); Riparian Herbaceous Cover (390); Access Control (472); Spring Development (574); Water Well (642); Pumping Plant (533); Pipeline (516); Herbaceous Weed Control (315); Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (645)-escape ramps	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>

Land Use:

Resource Concerns	Practices
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Ranking Score

Efficiency: Local Issues: State Issues: National Issues: Final Ranking Score:
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This ranking report is for your information. It does not in any way guarantee funding. When funding becomes available, you will be notified if your application is selected for funding. Some changes to the application may be required before a final contract is awarded.

Notes:

NRCS Representative: Signature Date:	Applicant Signature Not Required on this report for Contract Development unless required by State policy: Signature Date:
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